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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02513 251615Z

53
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02

USSS-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 /039 W
---------- 130395
O 251535Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 417

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY SIMON: LUXOR

REF: (A) STATE 044506, (B) PECK-SHAPIRO TELCON 2/24/76

1. REF MESSAGES SUGGEST THAT ADMINISTRATIVE PLANNERS FOR SECRETARY SOMON'S UPCOMING TRIP MAY NOT FULLY APPRECIATE MAJOR LOGISTIC EFFORT REQUIRED TO SUPPORT LUXOR REST STOP. WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE WITH REQUIREMENTS TO SUPPORT VIP VISITS TO LUXOR AND ASWAN AND OUR RECOMMENDATIONS WERE SUBMITTED IN THE LIGHT OF THAT EXPERIENCE. SECY SIMON HAS THE RIGHT TO EXPECT A RELATIVELY SMOOTH AND EFFICIENT SUPPORT OPERATION IN LUXOR, NO LESS THAN IN CAIRO. WE REPEAT THAT LUXOR IS 300 PLUS MILES FROM CAIRO, WITHOUT ADEQUATE ORGANIC INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT SUCH VISIT, WHICH NECESSITATES FACILITIES FOR CONDUCT OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS AS WELL AS VISITS TO HISTORIC SITES. THUS, WHILE WE COMPLETELY SHARE TREASURY'S DESIRE TO HOLD EXPENSES TO MINIMUM CONSISTENT WITH REQUIREMENTSNANEH HAVE ALWAYS OPERATED ON THAT BASIS, WE MUST HAVE ADEQUATE STAFF AND COMMUNICATIONS ON SITE IN ADVANCE.

2. TWO EMBOFFS VISITED LUXOR YESTERDAY TO MAKE PRELIMINARY ADVANCE ARRANGEMENT WITH GOE OFFICIALS.
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02513 251615Z

DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF LUXOR NOTED SECY'S PARTY WILL BE

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ABOUT SAME SIZE AS SHAH OF IRAN'S ON HIS STATE VISIT
TO THAT CITY (IT IS IN FACT SOMEWHAT LARGER), BUT
PROMISED ALL FEASIBLE ASSISTANCE.

3. SO FAR AS TELEPHONE LINK LUXOR-EMBASSY IS
CONCERNED, TREASURY PLANNERS SHOULD KNOW THAT EMBOFFS
WHO VISITED LUXOR YESTERDAY SAW DEPUTY GOVERNOR TRY
PERSONALLY FOR PERIOD OF FIVE HOURS TO ATTEMPT TO
GET THROUGH BY PHONE TO CAIRO. CLEARLY, THERE
IS NO WAY THAT THIS TYPE OF SERVICE CAN FULFILL
NEEDS OF SUPPORT FOR SECY'S VISIT. IF THE JOB IS
TO BE DONE RIGHT, TREASURY MUST UNDERSTAND THAT
THERE IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR A DEDICATED
LINE DURING DAYS IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDING ARRIVAL AND
COURSE OF VISIT ITSELF. SECY'S AIRCRAFT CAN, OF COURSE,
COMMUNICATE ANY CHANGES OR LAST MINUTE DESIRES TO
EMBASSY, BUT WITHOUT RELIABLE TELEPHONE LINE, ADVANCE
TEAM IN LUXOR CANNOT BE CONTACTED AND POTENTIAL FOR
ADMINISTRATIVE SLIP-UPS IS INCREASED. WE REPEAT,
WE HAVE BEEN THROGH THIS SEVERAL TIMES AND KNOW
WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

4. IN THIS CONTEXT, ALSO WISH TO CORRECT APPARENT
MISUNDERSTANDING OF COMPOSITION OF ADVANCE SUPPORT
GROUP DEPARTING FOR LUXOR ON MARCH 2 (PARA 4, REF A).
IN ADDITION TO CONTROL OFFICER, THERE WILL BE FOUR
OTHER EMBASSY AMERICANS, FOUR EGYPTIAN FSLS AND THREE
MARINE GUARDS. THIS IS, OF COURSE, IN ADDITION TO
USSS AND EOD PERSONNEL BEING FLOWN IN FROM
OUTSIDE EGYPT. THREE EMPLOYEES WILL GO BY VEHICLE
(TRUCK AND SEDAN), BUT REST OF PARTY WILL FLY AND
ALL WILL REQUIRE PER DIEM AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS.
THESE ARE COSTS PROPERLY CHARGEABLE TO TREASURY.
EILTS

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EO Systematic Review
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